

By Natalie Josef

Can Blood Type Determine Your Personality?

I have a rare **blood type**¹—AB+, which only 4 percent of the U.S. has—and secretly, I always thought it made me kind of special, even though I had no basis for that belief. But in Japan, blood type is used to determine one's personality and temperament. Like astrology, the scientific community often **dismisses**² blood type as an indicator of personality, but that doesn't stop its popularity in Japanese women's magazines, where blood type horoscopes are published. In Japanese video games, blood type is commonly a **dimension**³ in character creation. In fact, some Japanese might even be shocked if a foreigner didn't know her blood type.

The history of the theory that blood type determines personality is actually a dark one. In 1900, Austrian scientist Karl Landsteiner discovered the four blood types. Like 19th-century scientists who used brain size (the larger the brain, the more **advanced**⁴) to propagate theories of racial and gender **superiority**⁵, many (white) scientists used the blood type theory as a way to push forward their own ideas of racial supremacy. Scientists from the west suggested (falsely, obviously) that Asians were **inferior**⁶ and **sub-human**⁷.

We all love to know things about ourselves and blood type is just another fun way to learn new traits and understand why we do certain things. You don't have to believe in it to get something out of it—just have fun with it and take it with a grain of salt. My blood type is actually considered the worst in Japan; no one wants to work with ABs and most anime villains²² are that type. Thank God I don't live in Japan!

since the **vast**⁸ majority of them—like animals—had type B blood. In 1927, Takeji Furukawa, a Japanese professor, introduced the theory to the Japanese public in a paper entitled, "The Study of Temperament Through Blood Type." Even though he lacked the proper **credentials**⁹ and backed up nothing scientifically, the public embraced the idea of blood type as a determination of personality. The Japanese government even **commissioned**¹⁰ a study to determine if they could breed better soldiers. In the 1970s, a book by Masahiko Nomi revived the idea, which is still popular with the general Japanese public. In 2008, four books on the topic have hit Japan's top ten bestseller lists.

Find Out Your Blood Type

One of the easiest ways to find out your blood type is to give blood. Since it has to be matched for **donation**¹¹, they type it anyway, so you can always ask. If you're pregnant, doctors administer certain blood tests to **assess**¹² potential genetic problems, so determining the mother's blood type is standard. You can ask your doctor to perform a test when you get **blood drawn**¹³, but since it isn't usually medically relevant, you may have to pay for the test. The easiest way? Ask your parents; they probably know.

WHAT YOUR BLOOD TYPE SAYS ABOUT YOUR PERSONALITY

Type O (I)

You are the social butterflies. Often popular and self-confident, you are very creative and always seem to be the center of attention. You make a good impression on people and you're often quite attractive. Organized and determined, your **stubbornness**¹⁴ will help you reach your goals. You make good leaders. Lovewise, O is most compatible with O and AB. Common career choices: banker, politician, **gambler**¹⁵, minister, investment broker, and pro athlete.

Type A (II)

Type A may seem calm on the outside, but inside, you're filled with anxiety and worry. You're perfectionists and often shy and sensitive. Usually introverted, you're stable and thoughtful. You make good listeners and are sensitive to color and your surroundings. You like to be fashionable and are up on the latest trends, but never flashy or **gaudy**¹⁶. You like romantic settings and often **shun**¹⁷ reality for fantasy worlds. A is most compatible with A and AB in the love department. Common career choices: accountant, librarian, economist, writer, computer programmer, and gossip columnist.

Type B (III)

You can be very goal-oriented and often complete the ambitious tasks set before you. **Outgoing**¹⁸ and very charming, you're good at reading people and providing support. Though critical of appearance (but not your own), you aren't **picky**¹⁹ and are unlikely to dwell over the little things. Type Bs are impulsive individualists who often create their own path in life. You are very strong and optimistic. B is most compatible with B and AB lovers. Common career choices: cook, hairdresser, military leader, talk show host, and journalist.

Type AB (IV)

Not surprisingly, ABs can be quite dualistic, possessing both A and B traits. You may be shy and outgoing, and **hesitant**²⁰ and confident. You often stand out from others, don't like labels, and are nice and easy going. You are logical and determined to do things correctly. Usually **trustworthy**²¹, you like to help others. You often speak in a serious manner. Your patience, concentration, and intelligence are admirable. AB can find a soul mate with any other blood type. Common career choices: bartender, lawyer, teacher, sales representative, and social worker.

¹blood type
²to dismiss
³dimension
⁴advanced
⁵superiority
⁶inferior
⁷sub-human
⁸vast

группа крови
отвергать
сторона, аспект
продвинутый
преимущество
нишний
недостойный человека
многократный

⁹credentials
¹⁰to commission
¹¹donation
¹²to assess
¹³blood drawn
¹⁴stubbornness

право заниматься определенной деятельностью *лицензия*
качества, образование, опыт
поручить, назначить
донорство
определять, выявлять
взятие крови
упорство

¹⁵gambler
¹⁶gaudy
¹⁷to shun
¹⁸outgoing
¹⁹picky
²⁰hesitant
²¹trustworthy
²²villain

шток, картёжник
безвкусный, кричащий
беречься, избегать
дружелюбный, общительный
разборчивый, требовательный
нерешительный
заслуживающий доверия
преступник